

Leasing out of Railway land

†2717. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to lease out railway land which is not being used by them, to other Government agencies for a long term;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any land has been selected under this scheme around railway stations situated in Bihar in its first phase; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Railways have however a policy, to consider the request if any for long lease of land, if separable, to State Government/Public sector undertakings on payment of lease charges equal to 99% of current market value of land plus Rupees 1000/- per annum as nominal charges, for 35 years with a provision for a renewal for another 35 years on payment of nominal charges to be decided at that time.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New trains for Gujarat

2718. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains sanctioned for Gujarat region of Western Railway during last Railway Budget;

(b) whether all these have started functioning;

(c) the details regarding gauge conversion work within Gujarat as assured in last Budget; and

(d) the reasons why gauge conversion is at slow speed, as far as, railway lines in North Gujarat and part of Saurashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Seven pairs of new trains serving Gujarat have been proposed to be introduced during 2006-07. Of these, two pairs of trains

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

viz. 6531/6532 Yesvantpur-Ajmer Garib Nawaz Express (weekly) and 9269/9270 Porbandar-Motihan Express (weekly) have been introduced.

(c) In Budget speech 2005-2006, target for completion of Palanpur-Samukhiyali was mentioned and the same was completed during the year.

(d) The ongoing projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Rail Land Development Authority

2719. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large portion of the land under the Railway remains unutilized;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether much of such property is encroached;

(d) if so, the details of such property;

(e) whether Government propose to set up a 'Railways Land Development Authority' which through public private partnership" is envisaged to develop the Railways' surplus land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Only 10.4 per cent of total land holding of 4.31 lakh hectare, which is 44894 hectare of land is vacant and is required for Railway's operational uses largely.

(b) Railways do not maintain State-wise details. However, Zone-wise details of vacant railway land are as under:

Railway	Vacant land (in Hectare)
Central	2478
East Coast	1355.
East Central	5773
Eastern	1547